

641—83.6 (135) Duties. The council's duties shall include but are not limited to all of the following:

83.6(1) Conduct a statewide needs assessment at least every five years; update the assessment annually concerning the quality and availability of early care, health, and education programs; and conduct an assessment of infrastructure needs (professional development system, diversity, and workforce).

83.6(2) Coordinate the development and implementation of an ECI strategic plan.

83.6(3) Assist in the development and implementation of responsibilities across agencies and other entities to achieve ECI strategic goals.

83.6(4) Identify opportunities for and barriers to collaboration and coordination among federally funded and state-funded early care, health, and education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among state agencies responsible for administering such programs.

83.6(5) Work with the Iowa empowerment board in developing public/private partnerships to support the early childhood system through the first years first account in the Iowa empowerment fund and other efforts for expanding investment of private funding in the early childhood system. As this and similar efforts to expand and coordinate investments from all public and private sources evolve and mature, the council shall make recommendations to the lead agency for identifying or creating a private nonprofit organization to serve as a fiscal agent for the early childhood system or another approach for increasing public and private investment in the system.

83.6(6) Enhance collaboration and coordination of early care, health, and education services with other entities, including but not limited to the following services: early childhood education and development, health care, oral health, mental health care, welfare, child protective services, community environment, early literacy services, reading readiness programs, services relating to children with special health care needs, nutrition and physical activity, services for children with limited English proficiency and homeless children, and services provided by child welfare agencies.

83.6(7) Develop recommendations to increase overall participation of children in early education services, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations.

83.6(8) Develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection system for early childhood development programs and services throughout the state.

83.6(9) Develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development systems for early care, health, and education providers.

83.6(10) Assess the capacity and effectiveness of two- and four-year public and private institutions of higher education in the state for supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in high-quality early care, health, and education services.

83.6(11) Make recommendations for the implementation and advancement of the state's early learning standards.

83.6(12) Provide advice and recommendations to leadership of the executive branch and general assembly on system development that affects children ages zero through five and their families.

83.6(13) Report annually by December 31 to the governor and general assembly. The report shall include but is not limited to all of the following:

a. The status and results of the council's efforts to engage the public regarding the early care, health, and education needs of children ages zero through five and the efforts to develop and promote private-sector involvement with the early childhood system.

b. The status of the community empowerment initiative and the overall early childhood system in achieving the following initial set of desired results identified in Iowa Code section 28.2:

- (1) Healthy children.
- (2) Children ready to succeed in school.
- (3) Safe and supportive communities.
- (4) Secure and nurturing families.
- (5) Secure and nurturing early care and education environments.

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